Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/642,639	TOBA, AKIRA	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Pritham Prabhakher	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *07/23/2007*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-3*.

3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
      1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
   (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
   (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

   Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 06/06/2006
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mel R. Quintos (Reg No: 31898) on 09/27/2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. **Claim 3** has been amended to read as follows: --A digital camera comprising a plurality of interfaces for connecting thereto a plurality of kinds of recording media different in cluster size representing the number of sectors providing one cluster, a file recording device for recording an image file on the recording medium with units of cluster, and a display for showing thereon various items of information, the digital camera wherein the file recording device comprises: a cluster size obtainer for obtaining the cluster size from the plurality of kinds of recording media connected to the plurality of interfaces; *an interface selector for selecting one of the interfaces that is connected to one of the recording media that has a cluster size in accordance with the size of the image file to be recorded;* and a file recorder for recording the image file on the recording medium connected to the selected interface.--

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-3 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In regard to independent ***Claim 1,*** *the closest prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest "A recording medium management device for managing a recording medium with cluster units each of which comprises a plurality of sectors, the recording medium management device comprising:*

a graphical user interface displayer for displaying on a screen a graphical user interface ***having a first display portion for inputting priority ratio of high speed in access to the recording medium to recordable capacity of the recording medium in formatting the recording medium****, a second display portion for displaying a cluster size representing the number of sectors providing one cluster, and a third display portion for displaying the number of data files recordable to the recording medium;*

a cluster size determiner/displayer for determining the cluster size in response to the user's inputting manipulation to the first display portion of the graphical user interface shown on the screen*, and displaying the determined cluster size on the second display portion of the graphical user interface;*

a calculator/displayer for calculating the number of data files recordable to the recording medium in response to the determined cluster size, and displaying the

calculated number of the files on the third display portion of the graphical user interface; and

a formatter for formatting the recording medium with the cluster size displayed on the second display portion of the graphical user interface in response to the user's determining manipulation".

In regard to independent **Claim 2,** *the closest prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest, "A digital camera comprising a recording medium management device for managing recording/playback of a recording medium with cluster units each of which comprises a plurality of sectors and a display for showing various items of information, the digital camera wherein the recording medium management device comprises:*

a graphical user interface displayer for displaying on a display a graphical user interface ***having a first display portion for inputting priority ratio of high speed in access to the recording medium to recordable capacity of the recording medium in formatting the recording medium****, a second display portion for displaying a cluster size representing the number of sectors providing one cluster, and a third display portion for displaying the number of images recordable to the recording medium;*

a cluster size determiner/displayer for determining the cluster size in response to the user's inputting manipulation to the first display portion of the graphical user interface shown on the display*, and displaying the determined cluster size on the second display portion of the graphical user interface;*

a calculator/displayer for calculating the number of images recordable to the recording medium in response to the determined cluster size, and displaying the calculated number of the images on the third display portion of the graphical user interface; and

a formatter for formatting the recording medium with the cluster size displayed on the second display portion of the graphical user interface in response to the user's determining manipulation".

With regard to independent ***Claim 3****, the closest prior art of record fails to teach or reasonably suggest "A digital camera comprising a plurality of interfaces for connecting thereto a plurality of kinds of recording media different in cluster size representing the number of sectors providing one cluster, a file recording device for recording an image file on the recording medium with units of cluster, and a display for showing thereon various items of information, the digital camera wherein the file recording device comprises:* ***a cluster size obtainer for obtaining the cluster size from the plurality of kinds of recording media connected to the plurality of interfaces; an interface selector for selecting one of the interfaces that is connected to one of the recording media that has a cluster size in accordance with the size of the image file to be recorded; and a file recorder for recording the image file on the recording medium connected to the selected interface***".

The following are the closest references found:

Arai et al. (US Patent No.: 5576758) *disclose, "A digital electric still camera that is provided having a CCD image sensor and a memory card for recording digital image data of picture frames photographed by the CCD image sensor. The image data is compressed before being recorded, and the data compression rate is selectable by operating a picture mode button. The selected data compression rate is recorded along with the image data during photographing. When reproducing a picture frame on a monitor TV, the data compression rate is read together with the image data, so that the image data is expanded in correspondence to the data compression rate, and the data compression rate is displayed on a display device, such as a LCD panel provided on the digital electric still camera, in association with the serial number of the picture frame".*

Kanai (US Patent No.: 6467016B1) *disclose, "A control means 24A that reads an unrecorded area of a recording medium 25 in advance, and stores the read unrecorded area in a stack of a RAM 11. The unrecorded area is stored in the stack of the RAM 11 by being pushed onto the bottom of a stack pointer. When new data is recorded on the recording medium 25, recording is executed in order from the top of the stack pointer. Accordingly, information which continuously progresses in a time series manner can be recorded on the recording medium 25 without lack of the information which continuously progresses, and it is possible to reduce the time required to calculate and display the remaining recording time".*

Isshiki et al. (US Patent No.: 6785745B2) *disclose, "A recording/playback apparatus includes an upper control unit which transmits a composite command, which*

includes a real processing command and a virtual command, to a disk device. The disk device performs a process until a point of time when an operation cannot be continued unless the virtual command is changed to the real processing command to be operated beforehand. Instead of standing by after the real processing command is completed, the disk device can voluntarily operate beforehand in response to the virtual command, while selecting an optimum seek speed or disk rotation speed. The recording/playback apparatus can thus maintain the continuity of continuous data and perform an optimum operation in accordance with an expected performance while switching speeds of seek and disk rotation in detail".

Moronaga et al. (US Patent No.: 5226145) *disclose, "A storage management system for a memory card, which has a storage area divided into a plurality of storage units that have a predetermined storage capacity, manages storage of information on a storage unit basis. The storage area includes a MAT for indicating a relationship of ones of the storage units in which a group of mutually associated information is to be stored in the form of a packet, and directory for indicating one of the storage units in which a beginning portion of the packet is to be stored. Stored in one of the storage units is, as a header, management data representative of at least either one of the number of occupied ones of the storage units and the number of idle ones thereof, the header including an error check code for use in detecting an error of the management data".*

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pritham Prabhakher whose telephone number is 571-270-1128. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-5:00) Alt Friday's Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571)272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Pritham David Prabhakher
Patent Examiner
Pritham.Prabhakher@uspto.gov

Pritham . D. Prabhakher

DAVID OMETZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER